

Appln No. 09/788,069

Amdt date January 15, 2004

Reply to Office action of July 15, 2003

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

---

1. (Currently Amended) A method of printing a value bearing indicium (VBI), the method comprising the steps of:

generating a message digest by hashing relevant information;

generating a digital signature from the message digest;

av communicating the digital signature from one of a plurality of stateless cyrptomodules to one of a plurality of remotely located user computers;

generating a textual representation of the digital signature;

generating a 2-D bar code comprising the relevant information.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VBI is a ticket.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VBI is a coupon.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VBI is a traveler's check.

Appln No. 09/788,069

Amdt date January 15, 2004

Reply to Office action of July 15, 2003

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VBI is currency.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:  
the representation of the digital signature further includes a right side;  
the 2-D bar code further includes a left side; and  
the representation of the digital signature right side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code left side.

22  
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:  
the representation of the digital signature further includes a top side;  
the bar code further includes a bottom side; and  
the representation of the digital signature top side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code bottom side.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:  
the representation of the digital signature further includes a bottom side;  
the bar code further includes a top side; and  
the representation of the digital signature bottom side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code top side.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:  
the representation of the digital signature further includes a right side;  
the bar code further includes a left side; and

Appln No. 09/788,069

Amdt date January 15, 2004

Reply to Office action of July 15, 2003

the representation of the digital signature right side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code left side.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VBI is postage for a mail piece.

a2  
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, the relevant information including one or more of an indicium version number, an algorithm identifier, a certificate serial number, a postage security device manufacturer identifier, a postage security device model identifier, a postage security device serial number, an ascending register value, a postage amount, a date of mailing, a licensing postal code, a software identifier, a descending register value, and a rate category.

12. (Currently Amended) A data processing system adapted to print a VBI, the data processing system comprising:

one or more processors, at least one of which is associated with a stateless cryptomodule and another of which is associated with a user computer located remotely from the stateless cryptomodule; and

one or more memories operably coupled to the processors and having program instructions stored therein, the processors being operable to execute the program instructions, the program instructions including:

generating a message digest by hashing relevant information;

Appln No. 09/788,069

Amdt date January 15, 2004

Reply to Office action of July 15, 2003

generating a digital signature from the message digest;

generating a text representation of the digital signature; and

generating a 2-D bar code comprising the relevant information.

13. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein:

a2 the representation of the digital signature further includes a right side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a left side; and

the representation of the digital signature right side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code left side.

14. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a top side;

the bar code further includes a bottom side; and

the representation of the digital signature top side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code bottom side.

15. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a bottom side;

the bar code further includes a top side; and

the representation of the digital signature bottom side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code top side.

Appln No. 09/788,069

Amdt date January 15, 2004

Reply to Office action of July 15, 2003

16. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein:  
the representation of the digital signature further  
includes a left side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a left right; and

the representation of the digital signature left side is  
adjacent to the 2-D bar code right side.

17. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12 wherein  
the data processing system is a closed metering system.

18. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12 wherein  
the data processing system is an open metering system.

19. (Currently Amended) A data processing system including a  
stateless cryptomodule and a plurality of user computers in  
communication with the cryptomodule, wherein the date processing  
system is adapted to print a VBI, the data processing system  
comprising:

a processor; and

a memory operably coupled to the processor and having  
program instructions stored therein, the processor being  
operable to execute the program instructions, the program  
instructions including:

generating a message digest by hashing relevant  
information;

generating a digital signature from the message  
digest;

Appln No. 09/788,069

Amdt date January 15, 2004

Reply to Office action of July 15, 2003

generating a text representation of the digital signature; and

generating a 2-D bar code comprising the relevant information.

20. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein:  
the representation of the digital signature further includes a right side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a left side; and

the representation of the digital signature right side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code left side.

21. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein:  
the representation of the digital signature further includes a top side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a bottom side; and

the representation of the digital signature top side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code bottom side.

22. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein:  
the representation of the digital signature further includes a left side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a right side; and

the representation of the digital signature left side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code right side.

Appln No. 09/788,069

Amdt date January 15, 2004

Reply to Office action of July 15, 2003

23. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein:  
the representation of the digital signature further  
includes a bottom side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a top side; and

the representation of the digital signature bottom side is  
adjacent to the 2-D bar code top side.

24. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein  
the VBI is postage for a mail piece.

25. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein  
the VBI is a ticket.

26. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein  
the VBI is a coupon.

27. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein  
the VBI is a traveler's check.

28. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein  
the VBI is currency.

29. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein  
the VBI is postage for a mail piece.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium  
embodying computer program instructions for execution by a  
computer, the computer program instructions adapting a computer

Appln No. 09/788,069

Amdt date January 15, 2004

Reply to Office action of July 15, 2003

to provide a value bearing indicium to a user via a computer network, the computer program instructions comprising:

generating a message digest by hashing relevant information;

generating a digital signature from the message digest;

communicating the digital signature from one of a plurality of stateless cyrptomodules to one of a plurality of remotely located user computers;

generating a text representation of the digital signature;

and

generating a 2-D bar code comprising the relevant information.

31. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a right side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a left side; and

the digital signature right side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code left side.

32. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a top side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a bottom side; and

the representation of the digital signature top side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code bottom side.



Appln No. 09/788,069

Amdt date January 15, 2004

Reply to Office action of July 15, 2003

33. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a left side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a right side; and

the representation of the digital signature left side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code right side.

34. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a bottom side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a top side; and

the representation of the digital signature bottom side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code top side.

35. (Original) A VBI comprising:

a 2-D barcode including relevant information; and

a text representation of a digital signature generated from a message digest, the message digest generated using a secure hash algorithm to hash the relevant information.

36. (Original) The VBI of claim 35, wherein:

the VBI is postage for a mail piece; and

the relevant information is mailing information.

37. (Original) The VBI of claim 36, the mailing information including one or more of an indicium version number, an

Appln No. 09/788,069

Amdt date January 15, 2004

Reply to Office action of July 15, 2003

al  
algorithm identifier, a certificate serial number, a postage security device manufacturer identifier, a postage security device model identifier, a postage security device serial number, an ascending register value, a postage amount, a date of mailing, a licensing postal code, a software identifier, a descending register value, and a rate category.

---